

## Lead Scientist's Report

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**Summary:** This report presents six items:

- 1) Update on the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference
  - 2) Update on the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB's) workshops for the Comprehensive Review and Update of the Bay-Delta Plan
  - 3) Annual Independent Review of Long-term Operations Opinions Actions
  - 4) Latest Issue of San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science
  - 5) 2012 Pulse of the Delta Report
  - 6) Progress on Delta Science Plan
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### **Update on the Bay-Delta Science Conference**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference was held October 16-18 2012 at the Sacramento Convention Center. More than 900 registered in advance with another 100 expected to register on-site. In addition to the approximately 240 oral presentations and 150 poster presentations, the plenary session, town hall meeting on the Delta Science Plan, and other special events made for a productive and stimulating three days.

### **Update on the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB's) Workshops**

The last of three SWRCB workshops will be held November 13-14, 2012 in Sacramento. The Delta Science Program is again organizing an Invited Panel to start this workshop to describe the current understanding of key issues and what new knowledge has been developed since the flow criteria hearings in 2010. The topic of Workshop #3 is "Analytical Tools for Evaluating Water Supply, Hydrodynamics and Hydropower". These panels support the SWRCB in making progress toward adopting and implementing updated Bay-Delta Plan objectives by June 2, 2014, consistent with ER P1 of the Delta Plan. For more information about the SWRCB's public workshop and to view the Invited Expert Panel's presentation visit:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/comp\\_review.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/comp_review.shtml).

### **Annual Independent Review of Long-term Operations Opinions Actions**

This review (formerly known as the OCAP annual review) looks at actions taken to comply with Endangered Species Act requirements in the Delta and its watersheds. This year's review is focused on actions taken to improve conditions for salmon and steelhead spawning in Clear Creek, a Sacramento River tributary near Redding, and spring 2012 Delta operations to protect San Joaquin River steelhead. The Science Program's web page for this review is <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-event-detail/7842>.

### **San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science (SFEWS)**

The latest issue of the SFEWS journal is a special edition presenting several conceptual models of Delta ecosystem processes and how conceptual models help to inform environmental decisions. The use of conceptual models is a key tool for science based adaptive management. The SFEWS journal is available online at [http://escholarship.org/uc/jmie\\_sfews](http://escholarship.org/uc/jmie_sfews).

### **Pulse of the Delta Report**

The Pulse of the Delta is intended as a “voice” for the fledgling Delta Regional Monitoring Program (RMP). The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is leading this effort working with local stakeholders, the Aquatic Science Center and others. This second edition includes a keynote article on the benefits of regional monitoring and includes management updates on the Delta RMP, U.S. EPA’s Bay-Delta Action Plan, and Nutrient Numeric Endpoints for the estuary.

More information on the Delta Regional Monitoring Program can be found online at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/delta\\_water\\_quality/comprehensive\\_monitoring\\_program/2012\\_pulseofthedelta.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/delta_water_quality/comprehensive_monitoring_program/2012_pulseofthedelta.pdf).

### **Delta Science Plan**

With the Delta Science Plan Town Hall Meeting at the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference, the Science Program has expanded its outreach to scientists, managers, decision makers, and the public to build support for and engagement with development of the Delta Science Plan. To build on this effort, the Science Program launched its web page to solicit input on the Delta Science Plan. A brief fact sheet on development of the Delta Science Plan is attached to this report and is posted on the Science Program’s website.

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Delta Science Plan Fact Sheet

### **Contact**

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